Ministry in Delhi for official purposes with the prior approval of the Ministry of External Affairs. In addition, our envoys are also sanctioned leave on personal and emergency grounds to visit India, again with the prior approval of the Ministry. This is as per the existing rules.

Import of Crude Oil

† *319. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that enormous increase has taken place in crude oil import in the country during past years;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that 42.90 million tons crude oil was imported during the year 1993-94 whereas this quantity is expected to be 70.00 million tons in the year 1999-2000;

(c) if not, the details in this regard; and

(d) whether Government have identified the reasons behind this increase in the import and areas of its consumption; and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Against a total quantity of 30.82 million metric tonnes (MMT) of crude oil imported during 1993- 94, 57.55 MMT crude oil is estimated to be imported during 1999-2000 as per the latest projections.

(d) The factor responsible for recent increase in demand is economical and industrial growth in the country. However, the per capita consumption of fuel in India is still very low *vis-a-vis* Sthe world average consumption.

Scarcity Relief for Gujarat

♦320. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has submitted its proposal for scarcity relief for the year 1999-2000;

(b) if so, what action has been taken and how much amount has been sanctioned;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.